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**Finding aid to the
Brother Placid Gross
Collection
1995.02**

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Brother Placid Gross

Accession Date: 1995

Collection Number: 047

Quantity: 1 artifact

Summary: One crocheted rug, 24" diameter. Made by Magdalena Gross, c. 1990.

Languages: English

Links:

- [Journey to the Homeland June 8-24, 1996](#) – A travelogue by Brother Gross.
- [Photographs of 50th Anniversary of Brother Placid Alois Gross, O.S.B.](#)
- [Brother Placid Gross Celebrates 50 Years as Benedictine Monk](#)
- ["Customs and Traditions not Taught in School"](#) – by Brother Gross
- [Emily P. Reynolds Historic Costume Collection, NDSU](#)

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Citation: Brother Placid Gross Collection, 047, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

Magdalena (Vetter) Gross was born in Emmons County east of the city of Linton, North Dakota, on Sept. 27, 1902, in a sod house with a dirt floor. She was married in Nov. 1922, in Emmons County to John M. Gross of Napoleon, North Dakota. They lived in Logan County and farmed there until 1970, when they moved into Napoleon. Their second youngest son, Isadore Gross,

now lives on the farm. John passed away in 1986. In 1990, Magdalena moved to Bismarck, North Dakota. She passed away in 2003 in Napoleon at the age of 100.

John and Magdalena Gross had 16 children, 13 of which lived to adulthood and three that died in infancy. Their son Placid Gross entered the Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND, in 1957 at age 22. Brother Placid has been in charge of the Abbey's cattle operation since 1960 and celebrated his 50th Anniversary of monastic servitude in 2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Brother Placid Gross Collection** consists of one hand-crocheted rug, made by Magdalena Gross, circa 1990. Bi-circular crochet. Center is a 6" diameter gray circle surrounded by a 1" ring of red, 2 ½" ring of lavender, 1" ring of red, 2" ring of blue, 2" ring of black, brown, green and white mottled ring, multi-colored 1" ring and 1" red ring. Diameter of rug is 24".

Magdalena Gross crocheted the rug from 1 ½" strips of fabric. She learned the technique of crocheted rug making in her youth and used it for many years to make rugs for her family home. Traditionally, the rugs were made out of old dressed and other apparel that was too worn to wear. The fabric was cut into strips and recycled into rugs. It takes quite a lot of fabric to make the rugs. The lavender section took approximately 45 feet of fabric strips to create.

SEPARATION RECORD

The Brother Placid Gross Collection is housed at the Emily P. Reynolds Historic Costume Collection at on the North Dakota State University campus, under the collection number 1999.11. Advance notice is requested for the viewing of this collection.

ITEM LIST

Location	Item
EPRHCC	Crocheted rug